

Story and photos by Sgt. Gregory F. Withrow

Attack Aviation Battalion

Unit moves to Fort Hood to receive the AH-64D Apache Longbow attack helicopter.

The Flying Dragons of 1st Battalion, 501st Aviation Regiment will be upgrading their lethality as they move to Fort Hood, Texas, to receive the AH-64D Apache Longbow attack helicopter.

“The upgrade to the Longbow will provide the division with improved capability on the battlefield,” said Lt. Col. Robert Doerer, commander, 1-501st AV.

The Longbow transition is part of the Army’s ongoing process to improve the warfighting capabilities of unit’s like 1-501st AV and bring them on line with the advanced technologies of the Future Force concept. As of June 2004, ten Army aviation battalions have received the upgrade and the process is continuing with 1-501st AV.

Doerer and Command Sgt. Maj. Steven Remily, 1-501st AV, battalion command sergeant major, cased the unit’s colors in a ceremony in Hanau, Germany’s Fliegerhoerst Kaserne, Dec. 9, in preparation to move to Fort Hood for training and refitting.

A core of 70 Soldiers from 1-501st AV, including the commander, is staying with the unit, providing continuity during the unit’s transition, said Doerer.

“We have really great Soldiers within the unit and the added capabilities of the new hardware will only strengthen our potential for success on the battlefield,” explained Doerer. “I am pleased to have such an experienced core of Soldiers as we transition to the Longbow.

The Flying Dragons’ transition to the Longbow will be complete in late 2005, adding even more versatility to the division’s arsenal.

